

Howard has donated millions to help provide food, shelter, and transportation to the citizens of Ukraine. He has also worked with John Deere, also headquartered in Illinois, to provide storage, transportation, and equipment to farmers to bolster agriculture in Ukraine.

Ukraine is one of the top producers and exporters supplying grain and oilseed to countries across the globe. Howard's work not only helps farmers in Ukraine, but it also helps bolster food security and national security across the globe and here at home in the United States. President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy awarded Howard with the Order of Yaroslav the Wise of the V degree for his significant merits in strengthening interstate cooperation, supporting the state sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine and a significant contribution to the popularization of the Ukrainian state in the world.

I admire Howard and his willingness to help others in times of crisis throughout his life, whether it's helping to address food insecurity, human trafficking, global conflicts or projects in our backyard. Howard has always been a generous neighbor and friend helping with projects throughout Macon County. I admire his work and dedication to making the world a better place.

I thank Howard for all his work and friendship.

HONORING RICH MAROVICH ON HIS 21 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleague, Rep. JOHN GARAMENDI, to honor Rich Marovich for his 21 years of service with the Solano County Water Agency. Through his work as streamkeeper of Putah Creek, Mr. Marovich has shown a ceaseless dedication and passion for protecting and preserving our community's natural resources.

Mr. Marovich is originally from Palo Alto, California, and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Plant Science at the University of California, Davis. After college, he worked at the California Department of Pesticide Regulation, where he administered the department's first Endangered Species Program.

After years of drought, the Putah Creek Accord restored the natural flow of the creek; with this restoration, the need for a streamkeeper emerged and Mr. Marovich was a natural choice for the role. Putah Creek's 70-mile-long stream extends from the Cobb Mountains to the Yolo Bypass making it a major fishing and wildlife resource. To maintain the creek and protect its resources, Mr. Marovich was ever diligent as streamkeeper in improving water quality and conserving creek resources. Through his position, he also provided educational resources to the community regarding the creek's importance and collaborated with landowners along the creek on cleanup efforts.

In addition to his work preserving Putah Creek, Mr. Marovich created several environmental projects including the development of plant nurseries, food cultivation efforts, and critical fundraising campaigns for assessment programs related to the creek's condition.

The annual Winters Salmon Festival and the return of Chinook salmon to Putah Creek is a testament to the tireless efforts and unyielding zeal of Mr. Marovich throughout his career. While his service as Putah Creek's streamkeeper will surely be missed, Mr. Marovich's 21 years of service to the conservation of California's water resources has undoubtedly left a legacy that will last for many years to come. We would like to extend our sincere gratitude for Mr. Marovich's dedicated service to the preservation of Putah Creek and wish him and his family my best as he enters retirement.

CONGRATULATING MICHAEL SCHRAGE'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY AT CENTIER BANK

HON. FRANK J. MRVAN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2022

Mr. MRVAN. Madam Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I take this time to congratulate Mr. Michael Schrage as he celebrates his 50th anniversary at Centier Bank. Under his outstanding leadership, Centier continues to thrive and has been recognized as the largest private, family-owned bank in the state of Indiana.

Michael Schrage, chief executive officer and chairman of the board for Centier Bank, is a truly innovative business leader. Mr. Schrage is the fourth generation of his family to own and operate the bank, which opened its first branch in 1895 as Bank of Whiting. Centier Bank has sustained immense growth throughout the years, and today the organization operates over 60 locations across Indiana.

During Mr. Schrage's tenure, Centier Bank has reached many goals and enjoyed great success, including the development of an award-winning lender division, the creation of a financial literacy program, and a significant investment in the regional economy through the establishment of banking centers in 32 northern Indiana counties. The company was named a top-ranked bank in the state of Indiana by Forbes from 2019 to 2022. Since 2007, Centier Bank has annually been named one of Indiana's best places to work, which is due to Michael's value-based work ethic that fosters a supportive and thoughtful work environment.

In the community, Michael Schrage has also proven himself to be a pillar of the community and a selfless humanitarian. He gives much of his time and efforts to numerous charity organizations including Saint Jude House, the American Red Cross, the YMCA, and the Boy Scouts of America, to name a few. For his dedication to philanthropic endeavors throughout the community of Northwest Indiana and beyond, he is to be highly commended.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Michael Schrage on his 50 years at Centier Bank. For his lifetime of remarkable leadership and his commitment to helping those in need, Michael Schrage is worthy of our gratitude and admiration.

HONORING VICKI COLBERT

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the community efforts of Vicki Colbert.

For decades, Stewpot Community Services has helped people experiencing homelessness by providing shelter, clothes, and food. Recently, a new face behind the scenes has made a big impact on the community, one meal at a time. Vicki Colbert, known as Mama Vicki, wants every single meal she serves at Stewpot to be her best one yet.

"If I don't eat it and it doesn't taste right, it doesn't come out of this kitchen," she said.

Stewpot serves up to 150 hot meals to those in need, plus another 70 for Meals on Wheels. Colbert is the woman behind it all, but she didn't exactly plan to be there. The non-profit group was suddenly without a chef last fall. Colbert, who is a retired education administrator with a culinary background, just happened to be volunteering that week.

"She had already been here as a volunteer, and I heard about her in the kitchen and heard about her food, so I came just to try it out and found that she made the most delicious mac 'n cheese," said Jill Buckley, executive director at Stewpot Community Services.

It was so good, in fact, that Buckley said they asked her to stay for just one week. Nearly a year later, Colbert couldn't imagine being anywhere else.

"If I wake up every day in my right mind and I'm able to walk and talk, I need to do something grateful with that, so I come to Stewpot," Colbert said. "This is not a job for me, this is a ministry."

It may be considered a soup kitchen, but she's serving much more than your average chicken noodle soup. From Southern-fried catfish to homemade hushpuppies, Colbert is making real homecooked meals out of donated food.

"It requires someone in the kitchen, or some people in the kitchen, who can take whatever is donated and make a meal out of it. That's a skill," Buckley said.

"My sisters and brothers told me the same thing," Colbert said. "Give Vicki some sugar and flour (and) she can make a meal."

That familiar magic touch is how she earned the name Mama Vicki. Handwritten letters from some of the Meals on Wheels recipients are proof of her impact. They say how thankful they are to have her.

"I'm glad that I'm here," Colbert said, "I know it had to be a calling that I had to do." I love these people, I really do."

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Vicki Colbert for her outstanding service to her community.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE GUSTAVO ANTONIO GELPÍ, JR.

HON. JENNIFFER GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2022

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN. Madam Speaker, on May 12, 2021, President Biden nominated